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THE POLLS ON
MARCH 13, 2007 AT SOUHEGAN HIGH SCHOOL**



TOWN WARRANT ARTICLES

ARTICLE 2



Article 2: Baboosic Lake Community Septic Bond Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Fifty Thousand and 00/100 (\$650,000) Dollars (Gross Budget) to construct Phase III of the Baboosic Lake Community Septic System, and to authorize said funds to be raised through the issuance of bonds, bond anticipation notes or serial notes therefore in accordance with the provisions of the

Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes in their judgment, and to further authorize the Selectmen to contract for and expend any State aid that may be available for this project and to further authorize interest earned on this bond to be utilized to pay costs associated with this project. It is contemplated that the amount to be raised by bonds or notes will be offset by available public or private grants, and other sources of donations including, but not limited to, the following:

- A grant in the anticipated amount of \$250,000 from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Watershed Restoration Program;
- A grant in the anticipated amount of \$200,000 from the State of New Hampshire Department State Aid Grant Program;
- Any additional available grants or donations of which the Board may become aware and in its discretion determine to accept;

and the Board of Selectmen is authorized to accept such monies on behalf of the Town.

No dollars will be raised through taxation and any cost associated with this project will be assessed in accordance with RSA 149:1-7. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32. 3/5 Ballot Vote Required.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 7 to 0.)

Before the Town is allowed to spend grant money it requires the authority of the governing body. This article authorizes the BOS to apply for and spend a NHDES Watershed Restoration Grant and a State Aid Grant. Further it authorizes the BOS to purchase and expend bonds, bond anticipation notes or

serial notes along with the above grants to design and construct the next phase (III) of a Community Septic at Baboosic Lake on land partially in use for this purpose. An already adopted town ordinance then allows the town to recoup bond and maintenance costs by assessment to the users in the form of an annual fee.

The Phase I portion of the Community Septic System is now operational, having replaced 12 sub-standard individual septic systems near the lake. Phase II is now in final design with construction anticipated this summer. This Article will allow the project to continue and is anticipated to be the final phase of this project.

Estimated Tax Increase: No Tax Impact, Costs are Borne by the Users on the System

ARTICLE 3



Article 3: Operating Budget Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth herein, totaling \$9,393,309. Should this article be defeated the operating budget shall be \$8,843,571 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law, the

governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This article does not include any other appropriation.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 7 to 0.)

The mission of the Board of Selectmen this year was to produce a net budget that addressed the town's necessities and was equivalent to the regional Consumer Price Index. The budget presented at the Deliberative Town Meeting met this goal with a 2.8% net increase. In addition to the budget, the Board wanted to address the town's perceived infrastructure needs through a series of warrant articles. At the top of the Board's list of areas to address were our deteriorating roads. Over many years, due to budgetary constraints, we have allowed the overall condition of our roads to slip to an unacceptable level. It was the number one concern we heard from our citizens. After considering funding options, the Board initially supported a warrant article that called for the

taxpayers to raise \$400,000 in the upcoming year to begin addressing our road situation. Following more evenings of debate, the Board chose to alter that article and proposed funding it with Land Use Change Tax funds. The purpose for this change was to minimize the impact to the taxpayer for this first year of road improvements. At the deliberative session of the town meeting it was proposed by the voters, and overwhelmingly supported, to include the funding for the road repairs in the operating budget. The rationale in this decision was that road maintenance was an operating expense that most realistically belonged in the operating budget. The Board supports this approach as a valid way to accomplish the same task. As long as Land Use Change Tax funds were not going to be used to fund road repairs, the impact to the taxpayer is identical, whether the funds are in the budget or in a separate warrant article. This addition to the operating budget causes the net percentage increase to now be approximately 7.5%. Although that represents a significant increase, we recognize the need to commence repairing our most needy roads. In addition, we want to ensure that other Town services will be delivered in the best manner possible. The Board of Selectmen recognizes our obligation to the taxpayers is to maintain our town's infrastructure in a responsible manner while managing those costs in a way that has the least impact to the taxpayer. The method to accomplish this goal has been altered by the will of the deliberative session, however the result is still the same.....improved roads at a low overall cost to the taxpayer. Should the operating budget not be supported by the voters, the default budget will not contain sufficient funds to undertake the town road repair project.

The remainder of the budget contains little in the way of new initiatives. The Police budget shows a significant increase only because two years worth of the labor contract passed last year go into this year's budget. The Department of Public Works budget contains the only new hire in the Town this year. The chart included below summarizes the largest of the budget increases.

<u>Department</u>	<u>Budget Increase</u>	<u>Summary of Budget Increase</u>
Public Works	\$510,251	\$400,000 Road Repairs, New FT Hire, Steps/COLA, Insurance, Hot Top, Assorted Tools/Supplies
Police Department	\$151,822	Insurance, Group II retirement, Steps/COLA, Union Contract
Souhegan Regional Landfill	\$60,034	Contractual Cost
EMS	\$40,292	Part Time Salary Adjustment, Group II retirement, COLA
Library	\$26,148	Steps/COLA, Public Programs, New Equipment (shelving)
Capital Reserve	\$25,000	Second Year of Master Plan funding
Zoning	\$24,403	Steps/COLA, Job Reclassification
Cemeteries	\$23,759	Services previously paid via care funds
Fire Department	\$21,855	Added PT Administrative Hours, Group II retirement, Steps/COLA
Communications Center	<u>\$21,083</u>	Steps/COLA, Insurance
Total of Selected Increases	\$904,647	

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.49 Per Thousand